

**State Advisory Committee (SAC) For Children with Disabilities**  
**Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b**  
**Minutes for the meeting of October 3, 2012 - 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
**NH Department of Education / Room 15**

**Attending:** Bonnie Dunham, Chair; Renea Sparks, Vice Chair; Kerri Lynn Kimner; Michelle Rosado; Janet Reed; Donna Curtin; Adrienne Evans; Maureen Tracey; Catherine Meister; Sue Marcotte-Jenkins; Mike Pinard; Lynda Thistle-Elliott; Ellen Boudreau; Joan Holleran; Carol Conforti-Adams

**Absent:** Raymond Dailey, second Vice Chair; Kestrel Cole-McCrea; Audrey Burke; Candace Cole-McCrea; Karen Hatch; Jenifer Evans; Eileen Liponis; Richard Cohen; Sarah Cooley; Colleen Ellis; Susan Frenette; Ross Cunningham; Gilbert Oriol; Linda Hunt; Kim Carpinone; Daniel Tanguay; Cheryl Paquette; Rep. Jeffrey St. Cyr; Rep. Kathleen Lauer-Rego; Sen. Nancy Stiles; Sen. Molly Kelley

**Guests:** Santina Thibedeau; Denise Maher; and Michael Maroni

**Agenda Item I: *Welcome, Introduction***

- Meeting began at 4:35 p.m.

**Agenda Item II: *Approval of September's (Retreat) Minutes***

- Approval of September's Minutes – Motion passed.

**Agenda Item III: Announcements**

- Sue Marcotte-Jenkins mentioned that the ICC/ESS is working on developing a “family share” program that would involve parents paying for part of the expenses. Would be on a sliding scale and would not deny early supports and services to any children.
- Carol Conforti-Adams mentioned that on January 17, 2013, there will be a Professional Workshop on using Apps (A-Tech). In the afternoon, it will be open to the public.
- Carol also mentioned that DHHS will soon put out NHHelps.org. A registry for folks with functional needs.
- Bonnie told the group and provided a handout about the Webinar on Friday, October 5 – “Results Driven Accountability” (RDA).
- Santina reminded people to try to get onto the Webinar about 10-15 minutes early, just in case there is a problem. You can go to that website if you have difficulty. Usually archived.
- Bonnie shared Bob Blodgett's resignation due to a job change (now working in Vermont).
- Bonnie announced that Stacey Dailey has reluctantly resigned due to scheduling conflicts with her new job.
  - Elaine will draft a “thank you” letter to send to Bob and Stacey.

**Agenda Item IV: Public Comment**

- Ellen Boudreau introduced Denise Maher. She is a parent of a child with a disability. Denise is involved with many activities.
- Bonnie suggested Denise observe at this meeting and then decide if she would like to join the SAC.
- Janet Reed and Carol Conforti-Adams have received letters confirming their membership.
- Membership list needs to be updated with new members' terms and current members' terms checked.

**Agenda Item V: Old Business**

- Some items from the retreat were going to be discussed at this meeting but the people involved are absent. (Charter School issues / SAC logo / having SAC meetings at other locations)
- Sue Marcotte-Jenkins mentioned that teleconferencing is a possibility to get more people involved. Santina said we have that capability here at the NHDOE.
- Santina gave an update on the state's NCLB waiver application. There was a teleconference on October 3; updates to follow (more information will be available on the NHDOE website's homepage). The plan is to have 3 Networks –
  - 1. Technical Assistance for state/district or regional levels
  - 2. Knowledge Level – Cloud based
  - 3. Innovation Network
- Santina also mentioned that there is a Listserve that people can sign up for to receive key messages from the Department – give Elaine your information to be put on the Listserve.

#### **Agenda Item V: Old Business (continued)**

- Santina mentioned the “ACES” program. Joan Holleran explained that it is a 2-week program and you can apply at VR.
- Santina announced that they were awarded a 5-year, 3.8 million dollar grant for Secondary Transitions, focusing on college/career readiness and transition goals to help increase learning opportunities, etc.
- Carol Conforti-Adams, who teaches adult night school at Kearsarge, spoke about the importance of helping these young adults to further their education and/or help them with career/employment.
- Conversation on adult night school. Joan Holleran asked, “What happens after night school? What’s next for these young adults?”

#### **Agenda Item VI: Norms and Priorities**

- Renea led the group in a norm-setting exercise, building on the input the group gave at the September retreat. To narrow down the 35-item list, she asked, “What do you need to work in this group?” It was noted that some of the items were not actually norms. The goal is to develop a list of 8-10 norms.
- Renea had everyone take turns identifying norms they feel are important to them. Renea took notes and consolidated the input. The list of norms will be presented at the next meeting.
- Bonnie distributed a typed list of the “Proposed SAC Priorities” (From the September Retreat), which were also written on large newsprint post-it sheets.
- The group first discussed combining discipline and restraint/seclusion. A motion was made, but then withdrawn after discussion.
- It was agreed that legislation will not be a priority, but a standing agenda item to keep the SAC updated
- Members were each given 3 colored dot-stickers, which they used to vote for their top 3 priorities by placing them near their selected items on the newsprint.
- The proposed priorities (in order by number of votes were):
  - **9 votes – Secondary Transitions**
  - **6 votes – Under-identification/unmet needs of children with mental health/emotional disabilities**
  - **5 votes – Failed implementation of IEPs**
  - 5 votes – Parent and student empowerment/knowledge  
(“Failed implementation of IEPs was selected between these two on a second vote)
  - 4 votes – Follow-up on the Data Driven Enterprises’ report/recommendations (program approval)  
(It was agreed not to use this as a priority, but rather to inform the priorities selected)
  - 3 votes – Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
  - 2 votes – Seclusion and restraint
  - 2 votes – State and local special education budgets
  - 2 votes – What is working/has worked and what are the current/continuing barriers to children with disabilities being successful in school
  - 1 vote – Charter schools and children with disabilities
  - 0 votes – Achievement gap (testing gap)
  - 0 votes – Suspension/ Expulsion/ Discipline
  - 0 votes – CHINS / Court-involved children with disabilities
  - 0 votes – Sequestration and its potential impact. 0
  - 0 votes – The SPP/ APR 0
- The top 3 priorities (bolded in the list above) selected by the committee will each be addressed by a SAC subcommittee. Bonnie wants everyone to select a subcommittee on which to serve. Subcommittees will meet to make an initial plan during the first half hour of next meeting (4:30-5:00).

#### **Agenda Item VII: New Business**

- Santina is available to speak with members – call her main line at 271-6693. She is willing to meet early – before the meeting begins.
- CHINS – Next meeting to report back.
- Think about topics from the Department of Education (as related to the 3 priorities).

#### **Agenda Item VIII: Public Comment: None**

#### **Agenda Item IX: Adjournment**

- Michelle Rosado made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Catherine Meister seconded. All in favor.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.